

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SANKEI TELEPHONE POLL ON PRESIDENTIAL SHIFT

REF: USIA 17316 CIRCULAR

SUMMARY: SANKEI TELEPHONE POLL AUGUST 9 OF TOKYO-OSAKA
RESPONDENTS SHOWED THAT MAJORITY FELT PRESIDENT NIXON HAD NO
ALTERNATIVE TO RESIGNATION, WHICH ATTRIBUTED MOSTLY TO NEWS
MEDIA AND PUBLIC OPINION. THREE-QUARTERS OF THOSE QUESTIONED
DID NOT EXPECT CHANGES IN US-JAPAN RELATIONS, AND 40 PERCENT FELT
WHOLE MATTER SHOWED SOUNDNESS OF U.S. DEMOCRACY. END SUMMARY.

1. AUGUST 10 SANKEI PUBLISHED SUMMARY RESULTS TELEPHONE POLL
CONDUCTED AUGUST 9 SOON AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT NIXON RESIGNATION.
POST OBTAINED DETAILS FROM NEWSPAPER WHICH SHOW TOTAL RESPONDENTS
895 ALL TOKYO-OSAKA. (A) 74 PERCENT FELT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON
"PROBABLY COULD NOT CHOOSE BUT RESIGN WHEN CORNERED TO THAT
EXTENT." (B) 40 PERCENT VIEWED WHOLE INCIDENT AS MANIFESTING
"SOUND DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA." (C) RESPONDING TO MULTIPLE CHOICE
QUESTION(TWO RESPONSES PERMITTED) ABOUT WHAT PARTICULARLY CAUSED
PRESIDENT TO RESIGN, 58 PERCENT MENTIONED "NEWS MEDIA WHICH
FOLLOWED UP INCIDENT CLOSELY" AND 43 PERCENT ASCRIBED IT TO "PUBLIC
OPINION." (D) 70 PERCENT REPLIED THAT THEIR "IMAGE OF AMERICA
HAS NOT SPECIALLY BEEN AFFECTED" BY THESE EVENTS. (E) 73 PERCENT
FELT THAT FUTURE US-JAPANESE RELATIONS "MAY NOT CANGE" AFTER
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VICE PRESIDENT TAKES OFFICE VACATED BY NIXON. QUESTIONS AND

(MULTIPLE-CHOICE) ANSWERS FOLLOW.

2. QUESTION 1: US PRESIDENT NIXON RESIGNED HIS PRESIDENCY ON MORNING OF AUGUST 9TH, TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATERGATE AFFAIR. WHAT DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?

(A) REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE MATTER IS GOOD OR EVIL, IT IS A COURAGEOUS DEED 11; (B) PROBABLY HE COULD NOT CHOOSE BUT RESIGN WHEN CORNERED TO THAT EXTENT 74; (C) NOT GOOD WAY TO DO IT BECAUSE IT MAY OBSTRUCT REAL FACTS OF CASE FROM BEING DISCLOSED 9; (D) HE SHOULD NOT HAVE GONE SO FAR AS TO RESIGN 3; (E) NA 3.

3. QUESTION 2: WHICH OF FOLLOWING VIEWS OF THE AFFAIR IS CLOSE TO YOURS?

(A) POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN AMERICA 25; (B) SOUND DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA 40; (C) CANNOT SAY EITHER WAY 27; (D) NA 8.

4. QUESTION 3: WHICH OF FOLLOWING FACTORS DO YOU THINK DID MUCH TO CAUSE PRESIDENT RESIGNING? CHOOSE UP TO TWO ITEMS (MULTIPLE ANSWERS).

(A) PRESIDENT HIMSELF 9; (B) PERSONS CLOSE TO PRESIDENT 15; (C) POWER OF CONGRESS 39; (D) NEWS MEDIA WHICH CLOSELY FOLLOWED UP THE CASE 58; (E) PUBLIC OPINION 43; (F) OTHER 2; (G) NA 4.

5. QUESTION 4: HAS YOUR IMAGE OF AMERICA BEEN CHANGED ANY WAY BY THIS AFFAIR? IF SO HOW?

(A) AMERICAN IMAGE IMPROVED 10; (B) AMERICAN IMAGE DETERIORATED 12; (C) AMERICAN IMAGE HAS NOT SPECIALLY BEEN CHANGED 70; (D) NA 8.

6. QUESTION 5: AFTER PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION, VICE PRESIDENT TAKES OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY. HOW WILL IT AFFECT FUTURE JAPANESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS?

(A) MAY IMPROVE 3; (B) MAY DETERIORATE 3; (C) MAY NOT CHANGE 73; (D) NA 21.

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7. SANKEI SHIMBUN GAVE POST PRINTOUT OF GROUP BREAKS AND TWO CROSS TABS OF POLL. WILL AIR POUCH.

8. TWO LOCAL SURVEY ORGANIZATIONS, NIHON RESEARCH CENTER AND CENTRAL RESEARCH, INFORMED POST THEY PLAN TO TAKE UP PRESIDENTIAL CHANGEOVER AS RIDER QUESTION IN THEIR REGULAR POLLS TO BE CARRIED OUT MID-SEPTEMBER. POST WILL FOLLOW CLOSELY.
MILLER

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